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| APPLICATION NO. | FILING DATE | FIRST NAMED INVENTOR | ATTORNEY DOCKET NO. | CONFIRMATION NO. |
|--|-------------|----------------------|----------------------------|--------------------|
| 09/316,033 | 05/21/1999 | KOUKI HATAKEYAMA | 0879-0234P | 7274 |
| 2292 | 7590 | 06/29/2004 | EXAMINER GENCO, BRIAN C | |
| BIRCH STEWART KOLASCH & BIRCH PO BOX 747 FALLS CHURCH, VA 22040-0747 | | | ART UNIT 2615 | PAPER NUMBER 15 |

DATE MAILED: 06/29/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

| | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------------------|--|--|
| Office Action Summary | Application No. 09/316,033 | Applicant(s) HATAKEYAMA, KOUKI | |
| | Examiner Brian C Genco | Art Unit 2615 | |

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-12,15-17 and 20 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,2,10-12,15-17 and 20 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
 Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
 Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. ____. |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date ____. | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: ____. |

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Applicant's amendment filed April 30, 2004 has been fully considered by the Examiner.

Applicant's arguments are moot in view of the new grounds of rejection presented bellow.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The text of those sections of Title 35, U.S. Code not included in this action can be found in a prior Office action.

Claims 1, 2, 11, 12, 16, and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 6,542,186 to Uryu) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo).

In regards to claim 1 Uryu discloses an electronic camera comprising:

an imaging part for driving an imaging device to capture image data representing an image of a subject (e.g., Fig. 1);

an external storage medium interface for writing the image data captured by the imaging part into an external storage medium (e.g., element 110 of Fig. 1);

a connector for detachably connecting the external storage medium to the external storage medium interface (e.g., column 5, lines 20-23; Figs. 1, 3, and 5);

an external storage medium chamber for receiving the external storage medium connected to the external storage medium interface, the external storage medium chamber having an opening through which the external storage medium is received (e.g., Figs. 1, 3, and 5):

a lid for closing the opening of the external storage medium chamber (e.g., element 57 of Figs. 2 and 3);

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a power supply part for supplying power to components of the camera (e.g., a power supply is inherent with any electronic camera);

a master switch for turning on and off the power supply part, wherein the master switch is a switch to be operated manually (e.g., element 52 of Figs. 2 and 3; column 5, lines 51-52);

a detector for detecting that the lid is opened and closed (e.g., element 120 of Figs. 1 and 3; column 6, lines 2-4).

Uryu further discloses that the opening of the lid is a detection of removing the memory card (column 6, lines 15-25).

Uryu does not disclose nor preclude a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on, and for performing resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply, wherein when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is turned on, the controller suspends the power supply from the power supply part to at least the external storage medium while maintaining the power supply from the power supply part to the detector.

Matsuo discloses to turn off power to the camera when the memory card is detected to be removed so as to prevent unnecessary consumption of power when picture taking is impossible (column 4, lines 53-63). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to have added Matsuo's power termination method in order to prevent unnecessary consumption of power when picture taking is impossible. As such, the combination teaches a controller for performing suspension of a power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is opened while the master switch is on.

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Matsuo further discloses a card detecting switch 18 for detecting whether or not a memory card is loaded into the chamber (column 4, lines 53-56). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to have added the card detecting switch 18 such that the resumption of power is valid when the lid is closed again. As such, resumption of the power supply from the power supply part when the detector detects that the lid is closed during the suspension of the power supply is performed.

Examiner notes that it is implicit with the Matsuo reference that when the power is suspended the detector still receives power so that it can detect when the lid is closed. Otherwise, once the lid was opened and power was suspended it would never be able to be turned back on. As such, the detector clearly still has power supplied to it during the power suspension mode

In regards to claim 2 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claim 1.

In regards to claim 11 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claim 1. Note that the claimed chamber mechanism is implicit with any memory card chamber. Note in particular the disclosure on column 5, lines 20-24. Further note the obvious addition of Matsuo's card detecting switch for detecting whether the connector is electrically connected to the external storage medium.

In regards to claim 12 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 1 and 11.

In regards to claims 16 and 17 see Examiners notes on the rejections above.

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Claims 10, 15, and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over (USPN 6,542,186 to Uryu) in view of (USPN 5,179,505 to Matsuo) in further view of (USPN 5,423,045 to Kannan et al).

In regards to claim 10 neither Uryu nor Matsuo disclose nor preclude the electronic camera as defined in claim 1, wherein:

the controller has a timer for measuring elapsed time since the power supply from the power supply part is suspended, and the controller turns off the master switch when the elapsed time reaches a predetermined time while the detector does not detect that the lid is closed.

Kannan discloses, as is very well known and established in the electronic art, a state diagram in Fig. 5 wherein if a camera is in a normal mode it can be switched to a standby state by either a period of inactivity or by performing an event to cause the electronics to go into a standby state. Further Kannan discloses that if the electronics are in a standby state for a predetermined time then the power is fully turned off (column 5, lines 39-53). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have placed the camera in a standby mode when removing the memory card instead of turning off the power in order to realize a quicker startup time and/or conserve power. Further it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention if necessary to have added the step of terminating power after a predetermined time in a standby state in order to further conserve power.

In regards to claim 15 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 10 and 11.

In regards to claim 20 see Examiners notes on the rejection of claims 10 and 16.

Conclusion

Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Brian C. Genco who can be reached by phone at 703-305-7881 or by fax at 703-746-8325. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:30am to 4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Andrew Christensen can be reached on 703-308-9644. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is 703-308-4357.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Brian C Genco
Examiner
Art Unit 2615

June 22, 2004

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Andrew Christensen', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

ANDREW CHRISTENSEN
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2600